

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TUNIS 04779 171412Z

46

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ADP-00 IO-13 OMB-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03

RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-19 NIC-01 RSR-01

/157 W

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R 171350Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2908

INFO AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L TUNIS 4779

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, TS, AF

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR'S CALL ON FOREIGN MINISTER: RECENT
DEVELOPMENTS IN AFGHANISTAN

1. IN ADDITION TO DISCUSSING MIDDLE EAST, PERSIAN GULF AND
LIBYAN-EGYPTIAN UNITY (SEE SEPTELS), DURING MY AUG 16 CALL,
FOREIGN MINISTER MASMOUDI EXPRESSED INTEREST IN RECENT
DEVELOPMENTS IN AFGHANISTAN.

2. MASMOUDI INQUIRED IF WE HAD ANY UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION
CONCERNING RECENT COUP IN AFGHANISTAN. HE NOTED THAT ACCORDING
TO HIS INFORMATION IT APPEARED THAT COUP WAS MOTIVATED
PRIMARILY BY INTERNAL CONSIDERATIONS ALTHOUGH NEW REGIME
APPEARED TO "FAVOR" THE SOVIETS. IRAN, HOWEVER, HAS BEEN
EXPRESSING CONCERN ABOUT POSSIBLE SOVIET INVOLVEMENT. I
INDICATED THAT TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE IT APPEARED THAT COUP
WAS, AS MASMOUDI INDICATED, CAUSED BY INTERNAL PRESSURES.
AT SAME TIME I WAS AWARE OF REPORTS OF COUP LEADER DAUD'S
PRO-SOVIET BIAS. IN ANY EVENT, USG IS RESERVING ITS OPINION
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PAGE 02 TUNIS 04779 171412Z

WHILE FOLLOWING DEVELOPMENTS CLOSELY.

3. MASMOUDI THOUGHT THAT THIS WAS CORRECT WAY TO PROCEED IN VIEW OF PAUCITY OF INFORMATION COMING OUT OF AFGHANISTAN AT THIS TIME. HE CONTINUED THAT IF ONE WERE TO JUMP TO CONCLUSIONS ABOUT POSSIBLE SOVIET INVOLVEMENT, THIS MIGHT UNWITTINGLY HELP THE SOVIETS BY CHARACTERIZING NEW REGIME AS PRO-SOVIET WHEN IT ACTUALLY IS NOT.

4. MASMOUDI OBSERVED THAT AT PRESENT TIME SOVIET UNION HAS EMBARKED ON AN ACTIVE FOREIGN POLICY. UNLIKE PAST, HOWEVER, WHEN IT STRESSED ITS POSITION AS IDEOLOGICAL MECCA FOR WORLD COMMUNISM, TODAY SOVIET UNION EXULTS IN ITS POWER AND IN FACT THAT IT IS AT LONG LAST RECOGNIZED AS CO-EQUAL WITH USG. MASMOUDI THOUGHT THIS IS A SERIOUS DEVELOPMENT, ONE WHICH IS DISQUIETING SMALLER STATES WHICH HAVE ALWAYS LOOKED TO USG AND FREE WORLD FOR SUPPORT.
SEELYE

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EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

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